



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAY 30 2012

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Mr. Daniel S. Morris
Acting Regional Administrator
Northeast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Dear Mr. Morris:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Amendment 14 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (CEQ No. 20120106).

The purposes of Amendment 14 are to: 1) improve monitoring and observing of incidental River Herrings and Shads (RH/S catch); 2) consider ways to reduce RH/S catch; and 3) consider adding RH/S as managed stocks in the MSB FMP (i.e., as stocks in the fishery) so as to improve overall RH/S conservation. EPA believes that the DEIS provides an adequate discussion of the potential environmental impacts and we have not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes. EPA has rated the DEIS as LO – "Lack of Objections." A summary of EPA's rating is attached.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. If you have any questions please contact Jessica Aresta-DaSilva at aresta-dasilva.jessica@epa.gov or 202-564-1567.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan E. Bromm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities